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Sheriff's deputies, on special assignment from Temple and Central Jail LASD stations, patrol Metro Gold Line.



PHOTO: ARLENE LIM

Metro Security on High Alert, CEO Tells Board Members

(July 21, 2005) In a memo to members of the Board of Directors, today, CEO Roger Snoble reported that Metro Security and Sheriff's Transit Services Bureau deputies remain on heightened security status with an increased number of personnel on duty.

Since the July 7 terrorist attacks in London that killed 56 people, the Metro system has been complying with a nationwide Orange Alert. The explosions aboard three London subway trains and a double-decker bus, earlier today, have again raised security awareness.

During a news conference at his headquarters, this morning, LA County Sheriff Lee Baca said there have been no specific threats against transit systems here. He also discussed the mutual assistance agreement among the region's law enforcement agencies.

Currently, Sheriff's deputies are deployed, or are being deployed, at each train platform to augment normal staffing, according to Lt. Pat Jordan, acting Transit Police Chief. Bomb detection dogs from the Sheriff's Arson and Explosive unit are deployed on the Metro System.

PHOTO: GAYLE ANDERSON



Sheriff's deputies oversee lunch hour rush at Metro Red Line Station in the east portal of Union Station.

Investigators from the Arson and Explosive Unit are standing by in close proximity to the Union Station Complex to ensure a rapid response to any reports of suspicious or unattended packages, Jordan said.

Deputies are regularly sweeping the trains to look for unattended packages. Since July 7, deputies have distributed thousands of pocket-size emergency information cards to our transit riders, instructing them how to respond in an emergency and providing the Sheriff's Hot Line number – 888-950-SAFE (7233).

PHOTO: GAYLE ANDERSON



LAPD K-9 Bomb Unit patrols Union Station.

Metro Transit Operations is emphasizing that all bus and train operators must sweep their vehicles at the end of their runs for unattended packages. The frequency of security announcements to patrons using the Metro Rail system has been increased.

In addition, Metro employees are being reminded of the security alert, and asked to help serve as extra "eyes and ears" for Metro's security and law enforcement partners.

